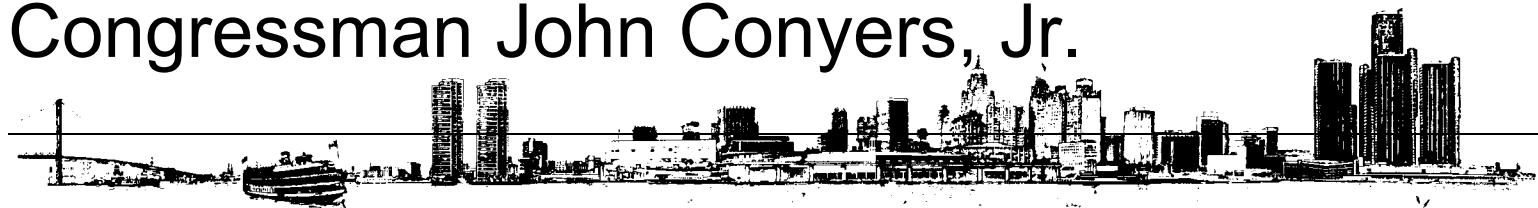


From the office of:

Fourteenth District, Michigan

# Congressman John Conyers, Jr.



Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee

Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus

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CONTACT: Dena Graziano

202-226-6888

## **CONYERS CALLS FOR FULL DISCLOSURE OF IRAQI PRISONER ABUSE DOCUMENTS**

Congressman John Conyers, Jr., issued the following statement at a press conference today with Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Congressman Henry Waxman and others to introduce two resolutions relating to the Iraqi prison abuse scandal:

“Two weeks ago, we publicly requested that the White House release all documents concerning the growing Iraq prison abuse scandal. We were ignored, so today we are (1) offering a Resolution of Inquiry which formally requests that the White House to release the documents, and (2) calling upon the Speaker to appoint a select committee to review the ever growing prison abuse scandal.

We are in the midst of one of the most serious incidents of human rights abuses in our nation’s history. In Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo, it is increasingly clear that our nation’s military and civilian contractors – at the behest of the very highest officials in the Administration – engaged in physical, psychological and sexual abuse on a widespread basis. Scores of detainees were murdered. Numerous warnings were ignored. The Justice Department provided the legal cover necessary to justify torture.

The resolution I am offering today will ensure that the Administration no longer picks and chooses what information it will share with us. The Select Committee will guarantee that a Republican majority cannot prevent members from asking the hard questions and getting real answers. These are common sense steps that I hope all of our colleagues will support.

We’ve given the President and the Republican Majority every opportunity to participate in what any decent society demands—accountability for inhuman and degrading acts committed in our name. Yesterday’s release was selective and only included documents favorable to the White House, it does not include the full set of materials needed to fully assess responsibility for the scandal. For example, we still don’t have:

- reports from the Red Cross and other human rights groups;
  - reports from investigations conducted by the military and Administration;
  - information on the command relationships at prisons and the training of personnel;
  - information about keeping detainees off prison rosters as Rumsfeld admitted he did;
  - documents about contractors and their role in detaining and interrogating prisoners;
  - documented complaints reportedly filed by contractors and military personnel
- If they won’t help us get to the bottom of why these atrocities happened, we’ll do it without them.”

The prison scandal is a stain on our nation and an impediment to the prosecution of the war against terror. If this Congress can’t find the will to investigate an abuse of this magnitude, it calls into question our entire constitutional system of checks and balances.

##108-6/23/04##